

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Alan Shluzas et al.
Appl. No.	:	10/658,736
Filed	:	September 9, 2003
For	:	METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR TREATING THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE
Examiner	:	Nicholas W. Woodall
Group Art Unit	:	3732
Confirmation No.	:	3377

AMENDMENT**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Non-final Office Action mailed on September 19, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in connection with the above-captioned application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.